Assessment Brief

NC Check-Ins

Grades 4–8 Reading	Grades 3–8 Mathematics
Grades 5 and 8 Science	NC Math 1

Purpose and Overview of the NC Check-Ins

NC Check-Ins are interim assessments developed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) that are aligned to North Carolina grade-level content standards (for reading and mathematics) and North Carolina Essential Standards (for science).

The main purpose of NC Check-Ins is to provide students, teachers, and parents with immediate in-depth action data and a reliable estimate of students' current performance on selected subsets of content standards. Both the end-of-grade (EOG) tests and the end-of course (EOC) tests share a common item bank with the NC Check-Ins, which then exposes students to similar item types and rigor found on the EOGs and EOCs.

NC Check-In scores are not included in accountability. District and state comparison data will be reported by student, teacher, and school. Comparing district-level results to state-level results is not particularly meaningful. Different schools and classes may be at different places in covering the content based on their testing windows and school calendars. The purpose of the NC Check-Ins is to provide individual and classroom-level formative feedback. Comparisons to other classrooms, schools, or local education agencies (LEAs) are neither encouraged, nor advised. It would be a misinterpretation for an LEA/charter school to conclude that their students performed better or worse than another LEA/charter school or the state. The value in the NC Check-In results is for teachers to determine if their students have learned the content standards that were covered in their classroom prior to the assessments.

Participation

School participation in the NC Check-Ins is voluntary and open to all LEAs and charter schools.

Availability

For the 2019–20 school year, the following NC Check-Ins are available
- Grades 4–8 Reading (measures all assessible grade-level content standards and increases in text complexity)
- Grades 3–8 Mathematics (measures selected subsets of grade-level content standards)
- Grades 5 and 8 Science (measures Physical Science, Earth Science, and Life Science)
- NC Math 1 (measures selected subsets of grade-level content standards).

Testing Formats

The grades 4–8 Reading and grades 3–8 Mathematics NC Check-Ins are provided in paper/pencil and online formats. The Science and NC Math 1 NC Check-Ins are *only* available online. However, students with disabilities can receive a paper/pencil version of the NC Check-In if there is documentation for the need in the student's current Individual Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

NCDPI-designated NC Check-In Windows

Each NC Check-In window is open approximately two months for the test administration and the student/teacher review period. LEAs/charter schools may determine the specific days for each NC Check-In administration and review period within the NCDPI-designated windows.

Reading at Grades 4–8 Mathematics at Grades 3–8 Science at Grades 5 and 8	
NC Check-In 1	October–November
NC Check-In 2	January–February
NC Check-In 3	March–April

NC Math 1 Year Long Course	
NC Check-In 1	November–December
NC Check-In 2	March–April

NC Math 1 Block 1 (Fall Semester)	
NC Check-In 1	September 16–October 31, 2019
NC Check-In 2	November–December

NC Math 1 Block 2 (Spring Semester)	
NC Check-In 1	February–March
NC Check-In 2	April–May

Quick Facts about the NC Check-Ins

- NC Check-Ins are not timed assessments. However, the time it takes for most students to complete an NC Check-In is about ninety (90) minutes. If additional time is needed, the teacher must use professional judgement to determine what the appropriate length of time is for the student's test administration.

- Reading and Science NC Check-Ins contain multiple-choice items.

- The Mathematics and NC Math 1 NC Check-Ins have a calculator inactive and a calculator active section. The first part is calculator inactive; the second is calculator active. For the calculator inactive part, students are **not** allowed to use a calculator. For the calculator active part, students can use a calculator.
  - Item types vary and include
    - Grades 3–8 and NC Math 1
      - Multiple-choice items (online and paper/pencil)
    - Grades 5–8 and NC Math 1
      - Gridded response items (paper/pencil)
      - Numeric entry items (online)

- Students with disabilities may use the same accommodations for the NC Check-Ins that are specified in their current IEPs, Section 504 Plans, EL Plans, or Transitory Impairment documentation for the EOG or EOC test. The IEP, Section 504, EL, and Transitory Impairment teams do not have to reconvene and document the accommodations for the NC Check-Ins.

Student/Teacher Review Sessions

Following the administration of an NC Check-In, teachers have access to students' test books (for paper/pencil administrations) or an electronic copy of the NC Check-In (for online administrations) until the close of the NCDPI-designated window. Teachers may use the test materials along with score reports to inform and guide reviews and instruction for the standards. Parents may view the NC Check-Ins, but only within the school setting through customary communication (i.e., individual parent/teacher conferences at the school). Parents may not have copies of the NC Check-In items, nor take pictures of any part of the assessment.